



Media Release

March 5, 2007

Primary pupils set sail for new skills

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Wednesday, March 7, 2007, between 10am and noon or 1.30pm and 2.30pm

Thursday, March 8, 2007, between 10am and noon or 1.30pm and 2.30pm

**The RNLI lifeboat will be available all day, on both days
At Nissan Sports and Social Club**

PUPILS from four primary schools are leaving the classroom behind to learn some hands on skills from businesses – including life-saving advice from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The RNLI will be bringing a local lifeboat along for children to find out more about water safety, the role of the RNLI and volunteering. Youngsters from Sunderland schools are taking part in Basic Skills events organised by Education Business Connections Ltd (EBC).

Participating in a variety of activities – from balloon modelling to basic first aid tips – the primary school children will learn a range of new skills. They will also enhance important key skills such as literacy, numeracy and communication skills.

There will be around 90 pupils taking part from Hasting Hill Primary School and Thorney Close Primary School on Wednesday (March 7), and around 110 on Thursday (March 8) from Broadway Junior School and Plains Farm Primary School.

Event organiser Sarah Nicklin, Business Liaison Officer with EBC, said: “These events are a great opportunity for students to learn new skills while having a good time. We are delighted to be working with these primary schools.”

The businesses supporting the events include: Health and Safety Executive, Asda Washington, Ian Lowe Children’s Entertainer, St John Ambulance, RNLI, Reynolds Outdoor Centre, Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK, University of Sunderland, Extended Play and Wates Construction.

Education Business Connections was formed eight years ago to support closer working between schools and businesses in Sunderland. It’s success means that now the team delivers innovative educational programmes to children across Tyne and Wear. Programmes are funded from a variety of sources, including the European Social Fund and TWEBLO, but EBC’s ongoing development is supported by Futurebuilders (for more details go to www.futurebuilders-england.org.uk).

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